

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for calculating estimated results and accruals on at least one insurance contract in accordance with predetermined accounting principles using a plurality of accounting engines in communication with a database, said method comprising:

storing insurance information in the database, wherein the insurance information relates to the at least one insurance contract issued by an insurer to an insured, and includes information relating to at least one of premiums, commissions, insurance policies, contracts, accounting bookings, claims, accruals, and losses;

transmitting insurance information from the database to the plurality of accounting engines;

calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals for the at least one insurance contract in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles;

generating entries for recording in a general ledger of the insurer based on the calculated estimated results and accruals; and

recording the entries in the general ledger of the insurer.

2. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein storing insurance information in the database further comprises:

storing insurance information in an operating system;

transmitting insurance information from the operating system to a reporting database; and

reconciling the insurance information communicated between the operating system and the reporting database.

3. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein storing insurance information in the database further comprises:

transmitting insurance information from an operating system to a reporting database;

transmitting insurance information from the reporting database to a transactional database; and

transmitting insurance information from the transactional database to the plurality of accounting engines.

4. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals further comprises calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals for the at least one insurance contract in accordance with predetermined accounting principles wherein the accounting engines include at least one of a status change engine, an unearned premium engine, a commissions engine, a reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine, an attritional loss engine, a catastrophic loss engine, and an incurred but not reported engine.

5. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals further comprises:

providing a plurality of accounting engines including a status change engine, an unearned premium engine, and a reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine;

utilizing the status change engine to determine whether a status change has occurred with an insurance contract;

transmitting insurance information from the status change engine to the unearned premium engine if the status change engine determines that a change has occurred in the status of the insurance contract; and

transmitting insurance information from the status change engine to the reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine if the status change engine determines that a change has not occurred in the status of the insurance contract.

6. A method in accordance with Claim 5 wherein utilizing the status change engine further comprises enabling the insurer to replace estimated numbers included within the insurance information with accounted numbers when the accounted numbers are reliable and booked within the database.

7. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals further comprises:

receiving insurance information at the plurality of accounting engines including an unearned premium engine;

calculating premium and commission bookings in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within the unearned premium engine; and

recording the calculated bookings in the general ledger of the insurer.

8. A method in accordance with Claim 7 wherein calculating premium and commission bookings further comprises calculating premium and commission bookings based on estimations received from an underwriter.

9. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals further comprises:

receiving insurance information at the plurality of accounting engines including a reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine;

calculating loss related premium components including at least one of a reinstatement premium and a reinstatement outstanding premium in accordance with predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within the reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine; and

recording the calculated loss related premium components in the general ledger of the insurer.

10. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals further comprises:

receiving catastrophic loss estimates at a catastrophic loss engine from at least one of underwriters and actuaries; and

recording the calculated catastrophic loss estimates in the general ledger of the insurer.

11. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals further comprises calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals for a portfolio of insurance contracts in accordance with predetermined accounting principles.

12. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals further comprises:

receiving insurance information relating to a portfolio per lossyear of insurance contracts at the plurality of accounting engines including an incurred but not reported engine;

calculating attritional loss estimates on a portfolio level in accordance with predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within the incurred but not reported engine;

allocating the attritional loss estimates from a portfolio level to a contract level; and

recording the calculated attritional loss estimates on a contract level in the general ledger of the insurer.

13. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein calculating at the accounting engines estimated results and accruals further comprises calculating at

the accounting engines estimated results and accruals for the at least one insurance contract in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

14. A system for calculating estimated results and accruals on at least one insurance contract in accordance with predetermined accounting principles, said system comprising:

a database for storing insurance information relating to the at least one insurance contract issued by an insurer to an insured, and to at least one of premiums, commissions, insurance policies, contracts, accounting bookings, claims, accruals, and losses; and

a plurality of accounting engines in communication with said database, said accounting engines configured to:

receive insurance information from said database;

calculate estimated results and accruals for the at least one insurance contract in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles;

generate entries for recording in a general ledger of the insurer based on the calculated estimated results and accruals; and

record the entries in the general ledger of the insurer.

15. A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said database comprises a reporting database, said database configured to:

receive insurance information at said reporting database from an operating system; and

reconcile the insurance information communicated between the operating system and said reporting database.

16. A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said database comprises a reporting database and a transactional database, said database configured to:

receive insurance information at said reporting database from an operating system;

transmit insurance information from said reporting database to said transactional database; and

transmit insurance information from said transactional database to said accounting engines.

17. A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said plurality of accounting engines comprises at least one of a status change engine, an unearned premium engine, a commissions engine, a reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine, an attritional loss engine, a catastrophic loss engine, and an incurred but not reported engine.

18. A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said plurality of accounting engines comprises a status change engine, an unearned premium engine, and a reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine, wherein said status change engine configured to:

determine whether a status change has occurred with an insurance contract;

transmit insurance information to said unearned premium engine if a change has occurred in the status of the insurance contract; and

transmit insurance information to said reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine if a change has not occurred in the status of the insurance contract.

19. A system in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said status change engine further configured to replace estimated numbers included within the insurance information with accounted numbers when the accounted numbers are reliable and booked within said database.

20. A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said plurality of accounting engines comprises an unearned premium engine configured to:

receive insurance information;

calculate premium and commission bookings in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within said unearned premium engine; and

record the calculated bookings in the general ledger of the insurer.

21. A system in accordance with Claim 20 wherein said unearned premium engine is further configured to calculate premium and commission bookings based on estimations received from an underwriter.

22. A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said plurality of accounting engines comprises a reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine configured to:

receive insurance information;

calculate loss related premium components including at least one of a reinstatement premium and a reinstatement outstanding premium in accordance with predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within said reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine; and

record the calculated loss related premium components in the general ledger of the insurer.

23. A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said plurality of accounting engines comprises a catastrophic loss engine configured to:

receive catastrophic loss estimates from at least one of underwriters and actuaries; and

record the calculated catastrophic loss estimates in the general ledger of the insurer.

24. A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said plurality of accounting engines are further configured to calculate estimated results and accruals for a portfolio of insurance contracts in accordance with predetermined accounting principles.

25. A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said plurality of accounting engines comprises an incurred but not reported engine configured to:

receive insurance information relating to a portfolio per lossyear of insurance contracts;

calculate attritional loss estimates on a portfolio level in accordance with predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within said incurred but not reported engine;

allocate the attritional loss estimates from a portfolio level to a contract level; and

record the calculated attritional loss estimates on a contract level in the general ledger of the insurer.

26. A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein the predetermined accounting principles comprise United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

27. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for calculating estimated results and accruals on at least one insurance contract in accordance with predetermined accounting principles, said program comprising a code segment that receives insurance information and then:



maintains a database by adding, deleting and updating insurance information relating to the at least one insurance contract issued by an insurer to an insured, and to at least one of premiums, commissions, insurance policies, contracts, accounting bookings, claims, accruals, and losses;

supports a plurality of accounting engines that receive insurance information from said database;

calculates estimated results and accruals for the at least one insurance contract in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles;

generates entries for recording in a general ledger of the insurer based on the calculated estimated results and accruals; and

records the entries in the general ledger of the insurer.

28. A computer program in accordance with Claim 27 further comprising a code segment that:

enables a user to store insurance information in an operating system;

transmits insurance information from the operating system to a reporting database; and

reconciles the insurance information communicated between the operating system and the reporting database.

29. A computer program in accordance with Claim 27 further comprising a code segment that:

transmits insurance information from an operating system to a reporting database;

transmits insurance information from the reporting database to a transactional database; and

transmits insurance information from the transactional database to the plurality of accounting engines.

30. A computer program in accordance with Claim 27 further comprising a code segment that supports a plurality of accounting engines including at least one of a status change engine, an unearned premium engine, a commissions engine, a reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine, an attritional loss engine, a catastrophic loss engine, and an incurred but not reported engine.

31. A computer program in accordance with Claim 27 further comprising a code segment that:

utilizes a status change engine to determine whether a status change has occurred with an insurance contract;

transmits insurance information from the status change engine to an unearned premium engine if the status change engine determines that a change has occurred in the status of the insurance contract; and

transmits insurance information from the status change engine to a reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine if the status change engine determines that a change has not occurred in the status of the insurance contract.

32. A computer program in accordance with Claim 27 further comprising a code segment that:

calculates premium and commission bookings in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within an unearned premium engine; and

records the calculated bookings in the general ledger of the insurer.

33. A computer program in accordance with Claim 32 further comprising a code segment that calculates premium and commission bookings based on estimations received from an underwriting user.

34. A computer program in accordance with Claim 27 further comprising a code segment that:

calculates loss related premium components including at least one of a reinstatement premium and a reinstatement outstanding premium in accordance with predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within a reinstatement premium/reinstatement outstanding engine; and

records the calculated loss related premium components in the general ledger of the insurer.

35. A computer program in accordance with Claim 27 further comprising a code segment that:

receives catastrophic loss estimates at a catastrophic loss engine from at least one of underwriters and actuarials; and

records the catastrophic loss estimates in the general ledger of the insurer.

36. A computer program in accordance with Claim 27 further comprising a code segment that:

receives insurance information relating to a portfolio per lossyear of insurance contracts at the plurality of accounting engines including an incurred but not reported engine;

calculates attritional loss estimates on a portfolio level in accordance with predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within the incurred but not reported engine;

allocates the attritional loss estimates from a portfolio level to a contract level; and

records the calculated attritional loss estimates on a contract level in the general ledger of the insurer.

37. A computer program in accordance with Claim 27 further comprising a code segment that calculates estimated results and accruals for the at least one insurance contract in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

38. A method for calculating estimated results and accruals for a business entity in accordance with predetermined accounting principles using at least one accounting engine in communication with a database, said method comprising:

storing business information in the database including at least one of accounts receivable data, accounts payable data, operating metrics, cash flow data, financial statements, capital structure, income statements, collateral data, guarantors, claims, accruals, losses, and other information relating to the financial condition of the business;

transmitting business information from the database to the at least one accounting engine;

calculating at the accounting engine estimated results and accruals for the business in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles;

generating entries for recording in a general ledger of the business based on the calculated estimated results and accruals; and

recording the entries in the general ledger of the business.

39. A method in accordance with Claim 38 wherein storing business information in the database further comprises storing business information in the database for a business engaged in business activities outside of the United States wherein the business is further required to publicly disclose financial information relating to the business within the United States in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles.

40. A method in accordance with Claim 39 wherein storing business information in the database further comprises:

storing business information in an operating system;

transmitting business information from the operating system to a reporting database; and

reconciling the business information communicated between the operating system and the reporting database.

41. A method in accordance with Claim 39 wherein storing business information in the database further comprises:

transmitting business information from an operating system to a reporting database;

transmitting business information from the reporting database to a transactional database; and

transmitting business information from the transactional database to the at least one accounting engine.

42. A method in accordance with Claim 39 wherein calculating at the accounting engine estimated results and accruals for the business further comprises enabling the business to replace estimated accounting numbers included within the business information with accounted numbers when the accounted numbers are reliable and booked within the database.

43. A method in accordance with Claim 39 wherein calculating at the accounting engine estimated results and accruals for the business further comprises:

calculating income and gains for the business from business activities engaged in outside of the United States in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within the accounting engine; and

recording the calculated income and gains for the business from business activities engaged in outside of the United States in the general ledger of the business.

44. A method in accordance with Claim 43 wherein calculating income and gains further comprises calculating income and gains based on estimations generated by the business.

45. A method in accordance with Claim 39 wherein calculating at the accounting engine estimated results and accruals for the business further comprises:

calculating expenses and losses for the business from business activities engaged in outside of the United States in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm executed within the accounting engine; and

recording the calculated expenses and losses for the business from business activities engaged in outside of the United States in the general ledger of the business.

46. A method in accordance with Claim 45 wherein calculating expenses and losses further comprises calculating expenses and losses based on estimations generated by the business.

47. A method in accordance with Claim 39 wherein calculating at the accounting engine estimated results and accruals for the business further comprises calculating at the accounting engine estimated results and accruals for a portfolio of assets owned by the business in accordance with predetermined accounting principles.

48. A method in accordance with Claim 39 wherein calculating at the accounting engine estimated results and accruals for the business further

comprises calculating at the accounting engine estimated results and accruals for the business in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

49. A system for calculating estimated results and accruals for a business entity in accordance with predetermined accounting principles, said system comprising:

a database for storing business information including at least one of accounts receivable data, accounts payable data, operating metrics, cash flow data, financial statements, capital structure, income statements, collateral data, guarantors, claims, accruals, losses, and other information relating to the financial condition of the business; and

at least one accounting engine in communication with said database, said accounting engine configured to:

receive business information from said database;

calculate estimated results and accruals for the business in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles;

generate entries for recording in a general ledger of the business based on the calculated estimated results and accruals; and

record the entries in the general ledger of the business.

50. A system in accordance with Claim 49 wherein said database further includes business information relating to a business engaged in business activities outside of the United States wherein the business is further required to publicly disclose financial information relating to the business within the United States in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles.

51. A system in accordance with Claim 50 wherein said database comprises a reporting database, said database configured to:

receive business information at said reporting database from an operating system; and

reconcile the business information communicated between the operating system and said reporting database.

52. A system in accordance with Claim 50 wherein said database comprises a reporting database and a transactional database, said database configured to:

receive business information at said reporting database from an operating system;

transmit business information from said reporting database to said transactional database; and

transmit business information from said transactional database to said accounting engine.

53. A system in accordance with Claim 50 wherein said accounting engine is further configured to replace estimated accounting numbers included within the business information with accounted numbers when the accounted numbers are reliable and booked within said database.

54. A system in accordance with Claim 50 wherein said accounting engine is configured to:

calculate income and gains for the business from business activities engaged in outside of the United States in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm; and

record the calculated income and gains for the business from business activities engaged in outside of the United States in the general ledger of the business.



55. A system in accordance with Claim 54 wherein said accounting engine is further configured to calculate income and gains based on estimations generated by the business.

56. A system in accordance with Claim 50 wherein said accounting engine is further configured to:

calculate expenses and losses for the business from business activities engaged in outside of the United States in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles using a predetermined algorithm; and

record the calculated expenses and losses for the business from business activities engaged in outside of the United States in the general ledger of the business.

57. A system in accordance with Claim 56 wherein said accounting engine is further configured to calculate expenses and losses based on estimations generated by the business.

58. A system in accordance with Claim 50 wherein said accounting engine is further configured to calculate estimated results and accruals for a portfolio of assets owned by the business in accordance with the predetermined accounting principles.

59. A system in accordance with Claim 50 wherein the predetermined accounting principles comprise United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.